

**Nottinghamshire County Council
and
Beeston and Stapleford Urban District Council**

REPORTS
OF THE
CHIEF INSPECTOR
OF
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

FOR THE
Year Ended 31st March 1972

**Nottinghamshire County Council
and
Beeston and Stapleford Urban District Council**

REPORTS

OF THE

CHIEF INSPECTOR

OF

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

FOR THE

Year Ended 31st March 1972

Nottinghamshire County Council:

Pages 1 - 35

Beeston and Stapleford Urban District Council: Pages 37 - 52

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

THE PUBLIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

1972

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The Chairman of the County Council:

Alderman Mrs. E.A. Yates, C.B.E., J.P.

The Vice-Chairman of the County Council:

Alderman Sir Frank Small, C.B.E., D.L., J.P.

The Chairman of the Committee:

Councillor A. Green

The Vice-Chairman of the Committee:

Alderman E.E. Blanchard

Alderman Mrs. L. Hill
Councillor R. T. Alexander
Councillor Mrs. M. Beardsley
Councillor Mrs. S. R. Booler
Councillor A. H. Bosworth
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Councillor G. A. McNeill
Councillor Miss N. J. Nairn
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Councillor S. Wadsworth
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REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR TO THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

for the Year ended
31st MARCH, 1972

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COUNTY HALL,
WEST BRIDGFORD,
NOTTINGHAM,
NG2 7QP.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the work of my Department during the year ended 31st March, 1972.

The Department was responsible during the year for the enforcement in the whole or parts of the administrative County (as indicated in the text) of the following Acts, Orders and Regulations:

Weights and Measures Act, 1963 and Orders and Regulations made thereunder.

Trade Descriptions Acts, 1968 and 1972.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The Food Standards Orders and Regulations.

The Labelling of Food Regulations.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963, 1965.

Milk and Dairies (Channel Islands and South Devon Milk) Regulations, 1956.

Milk and Dairies (Preservatives) Regulations, 1962.

Explosives Acts, 1875 to 1923 and Statutory Orders made thereunder.

The Fabrics (Misdescription) Act, 1913 and Regulations made thereunder.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Regulations, 1960 to 1964.

Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Acts, 1928 and 1931, as amended
by the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1963.

The Eggs (Marketing and Storage) Regulations, 1965.

Eggs (Protection of Guarantees) Order, 1969.

Shops Acts, 1950 and 1965.

Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933. (Sale of Poisons by Shopkeepers).

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941. (Sections 8, 9 and 11).

Road Traffic Act, 1972. Section 33 (Protective Helmets for Motor Cyclists).
Section 160 (Weights of Road Vehicles).

The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations. (Weights of Loaded
Goods Vehicles).

The Consumer Protection Acts, 1961 and 1971 and Regulations made thereunder.

The following new or amending legislation affecting the work of the Department came into force during the year:

Preservatives in Food (Amendment) Regulations 1971.

Cubic Measures (Sand, Ballast and Agricultural Materials) (Amendment)
Regulations 1971.

Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Rules 1971.

Electric Blankets (Safety) Regulations 1971.

Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 1971.

Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (Amendment) Order 1971.

Goods Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) Regulations 1971.

This is the twenty-fifth Annual Report I have had the honour and privilege to present to the County Council and in view of my pending retirement after nearly 50 years in the service, it will be my last. In the last quarter of a century, one has seen many changes in the trading and industrial scene with which our activities are wholly concerned. Twenty-five years ago we were in the "sellers' market" which followed the War. Most things were in short supply, some were rationed and if one was lucky enough to get delivery of a new motor car, it could often be sold after twelve months' or more use for much more than it cost. All that has long ago gone - - - and with it the fairly widespread adulteration, short-weight and low quality products which plagued us in those days and for quite a long time afterwards. The odd thing is that in this era there were few complaints from members of the public probably because many of us had got used to indifferent quality and it was the persistence and vigilance of inspectors and analysts who detected and put these things right, albeit with a lot of help from bodies such as the Food Standards Committee which persuaded successive Governments to provide much needed minimum standards of quality for many products.

For some years now, we have been very much in a "buyers' market" in which the competition for consumer patronage grows increasingly fierce. Pressure on sales managers constantly to increase turnover often results in their turning to sales promotion methods and projects (such as some of the so-called "Free Offers", "Xp off", and variations of the "stamp" schemes) which at best tend to brainwash the consumer and, at worst, are traps for the unwary and occasionally downright dishonest. Added to this is another form of brainwashing in which slick promotion experts set out to convince prospective purchasers that their very ordinary product is a wonder worker of better quality than it is and, at any rate, much better value than the one the other chap is selling. At the end of the line, there are people like retail store managers who are usually under heavy pressure constantly to increase net profit and at the same time lawfully to walk the tight-rope of ringing the frequent changes in offers and prices of the hundreds of commodities in their stores. In fairness to large store managers, it is perhaps surprising having regard to the pressures under which they work that they (and their assistants for whose acts and defaults a recent interpretation of the law by the House of Lords has said they can be held responsible) do not make more 'mistakes' (intentional and otherwise) than the great majority of them do. The interpretation of the law as to vicarious liability by the highest authority in the land must be accepted but the fact remains that it reversed a contrary interpretation by three High Court Judges in the Divisional Court and one which had been accepted by lawyers and the Lower Courts for at least fifty years. The effect is thought to be far from what Parliament intended in the Weights and Measures and Trade Descriptions Acts and it is to be hoped that an early opportunity will be found to amend the law so as to provide that the responsibilities and penalties for breaches of the law by other employees cannot be entirely passed by a trader to an employee manager.

Twentyfive years ago, in addition to our basic duty which was and still is, to provide the necessary technical services and to enforce the national system of weights and measures, the Department had important consumer protection duties but these were mainly concerned with food, fuel, gas, agricultural feeding stuffs and chemical fertilisers. Today the functions of the Department in relation to Consumer Protection and the enforcement of standards of quantity, quality, composition and description, extend to the generality of the goods and services of trade and commerce. Furthermore, in contrast with earlier times, all sections of the public have become acutely conscious of the protection services which the Department provides and indeed often assume that we have much greater powers than is the case including, in particular, those necessary to adjust a bad bargain! It cannot be too strongly emphasised that caveat emptor

("let the buyer beware"!) is still an important ingredient in the great majority of transactions and that we only come into the picture with any strength where it can be proved that the buyer has been deceived.

The consideration and investigation of the growing volume of consumer complaints is an important priority duty. It is however a time-consuming one which, having regard to our limited staffs, inevitably results in the increasing diversion of manpower from inspectional duties on trading premises where the professional skills of inspectors are most profitably employed. As a general rule, the consumer only complains when he has been hurt - - - or perhaps more precisely when he is aware that he has been hurt - - - but the vigilant inspector, who knows what he is looking-for, sees many things and 'tricks of the trade' not apparent to the average shopper. Moreover, the fairly frequent appearance of an inspector in trading premises in itself undoubtedly has a salutary preventative effect over the whole field of our activities. In practice, however, his visitation is not unwelcome to the better type of trader who increasingly appears to value, and indeed seek, the advice of the Inspector and to realise that his prime purpose is to secure compliance with the law by persuasion rather than prosecution. It is therefore a matter for regret that this section of our activity had again to be restricted to meet priority obligations during the year. Although we made over 9,000 visits of inspection for various purposes, there were over 3,000 premises (out of a total nearly 10,000 known to be liable to inspection) which we were unable to visit during the year. In my opinion this is a trend which should not be allowed to continue indefinitely and, but for the pending reorganisation of Local Government, I should have felt bound to advise an increase in the Establishment of Inspectors during the next financial year.

Having regard to the greatly extended range of our responsibilities in recent years, the title "Weights and Measures" has long since failed to be descriptive of our functions: indeed the complaint of some seekers of our services that it tends to conceal them is more than justified. Consideration has been given to this problem from time to time but the difficulty has always been to find something more appropriate and descriptive. "Consumer Protection" has a following but I and many of my professional colleagues have never particularly liked it because it takes no account of our technical and public safety functions and moreover suggests a bias in favour of the consumer against the trader which we have always been at some pains to avoid. Indeed, much of the strength of our present standing derives from the confidence of traders that we are impartial. It is fairly generally agreed, however, that a more appropriate title than "Weights and Measures" is desirable and I think that the Institute of Weights and Measures Administration, which reflects professional opinion in all the varied functions with which we are concerned, has probably found the best solution. After much deliberation and heart-searching the Institute, with the approval of the Department of Trade and Industry, recently changed its name to the "Institute of Trading Standards Administration" and is recommending that the service in future should be known as the "Trading Standards Service". All our functions are concerned with trading activities and the local enforcement of nationally fixed standards of one kind or another and the recommendation has already been adopted by a number of Authorities. It is thought that the idea is one which the new county authority might seriously consider.

In our Trade Descriptions and Consumer Advisory activities, the section of the motor car trade dealing in decrepit so-called "used" cars, many of which are fit only for the scrapheap, continues to give us most trouble. Some of these highly-polished and titivated vehicles are faulty in the parts that matter to an extent almost beyond belief and, apart from the financial calamity they often provide for the purchaser, many of them are a real menace to other

road users when they are taken on to the road. Unfortunately, some salesmen have discovered crafty ways of evading the sanctions of both the Trade Descriptions Act and the parts of the Road Safety Act dealing with the sale of unroadworthy vehicles. In the interests of purchasers (some of whom are left with a credit sale debt long after the vehicle has had to be scrapped) and public safety, an amendment of the law to close the loopholes and to stop this traffic in worthless and dangerous vehicles is in my opinion urgently required. The prospective purchaser of a used car is strongly advised to have it examined by a competent person; not to sign any document without first carefully reading and making sure that he understands it and, above all, to make sure that he does not sign any declaration undertaking responsibility for putting the vehicle in roadworthy condition before using it on the road. Incredible as it may appear, instances have come to our notice where purchasers have been persuaded to sign this kind of declaration and greatly regretted the consequences.

Routine tests of children's toys under the Toys (Safety) Regulations have indicated that paints containing excessive proportions of lead were much more extensively used (particularly on toys imported from the Far East) prior to the operation of the Regulations than was generally supposed. Steps have been taken to eradicate objectionable stocks from retail shops and distributing channels but we can do little about old toys which may still be in use. Cheap wooden toys, which young children may suck or bite are the worst offenders. There is no easy method of recognising lead paints or primers with any certainty and parents would be wise to destroy any doubtful items. Bright yellows, oranges, reds and whites are the most common offending colours but this list is not exclusive.

This introduction refers to only a few aspects of the Department's work which may be of particular interest. The pages which follow give a summary of our work in all sections of our activities. These are concerned, in one way or another, with the interests of all the inhabitants of this County in their day-to-day transactions in the generality of consumer goods or with their safety. The net cost of all our services in the year under review was less than the equivalent of a half-penny in terms of the County rate.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES SERVICES

The County Council were responsible for these services throughout the County with the exception of the Borough of Newark-on-Trent and the Urban District of Beeston and Stapleford during the period under report.

The Urban District of Beeston and Stapleford became an independent Weights and Measures Authority in 1970, but by Agreement between the Urban District Council and the County Council, the Department continues to carry out the duties on behalf of the Urban District Council and a separate Report is made to the Urban District Council.

The duties of the Department under this heading shortly comprise:-

1. The custody and preservation of the County Local Standards of weight and measure
2. The testing and official stamping of new and repaired weighing and measuring appliances used or intended for use in trade and industry in the County to ensure that they are fit for such use and conform to the national standards and approved patterns.
3. The regular inspection and testing of weighing and measuring appliances in use at trading and industrial premises in the County.
4. The detection and prevention of fraud and deception in connection with weighing and measuring and generally to protect the public against short weight and measure.
5. The enforcement of the statutes controlling the sale and labelling of commodities by weight, measure and number and for this purpose regularly to inspect all premises where such commodities are packed, held for sale or sold.

During the year, your Inspectors tested 93,173 weighing and measuring appliances of which 2,954 (3.17%) were found to be in need of adjustment or otherwise unfit for use. In the majority of cases, the inaccuracies were not serious, and were the result of ordinary wear and tear.

In addition to the facilities for the testing and stamping of weighing and measuring appliances available at the permanent offices at Nottingham, Mansfield and Retford, temporary centres for the convenience of local traders were held at the following places during the year:-

Annesley Woodhouse
Arnold
Carlton
Clipstone
East Leake
Eastwood
Edwinstowe
Everton
Forest Town
Harworth
Huthwaite
Kimberley

Kirkby-in-Ashfield
Langold
Lowdham
Mansfield Woodhouse
Mapperley
Misson
North Wheatley
Ollerton
Rampton
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Worksop

Fixed equipment such as weighbridges, automatic packing machines, egg-grading machines, petrol and oil measuring instruments, etc. are tested on

traders' premises. Appliances are also tested and stamped at scalemakers' workshops after being repaired.

The Department provides a special service under the provisions of the 1963 Act for the adjustment of weights and measures which have become incorrect due to wear and tear. During the year 1,897 weights were adjusted by the staff of the Department.

Fees for testing and adjusting weights and measures equipment amounted to £5,226 (£5,720 1970/71).

Detailed statistics are given on pages 26 - 28.

Weighbridge Testing

During the year 121 weighbridges and large platform machines were tested of which 96 were found correct and 25 incorrect.

The weighbridge testing unit again greatly facilitated this work. In addition to dealing with the work in this County, the unit was loaned for 97 (106 in 1970/71) days to other Weights and Measures authorities. These included the Counties of Derby, Kesteven and Northampton, the County Boroughs of Barnsley, Burton-on-Trent, Lincoln, Northampton, Nottingham and Sheffield and the Boroughs of Chesterfield and Newark. Although the vehicle and the 50 tons of roller test weights are provided primarily for the official testing of weighbridges and heavy weighing plant, they are made available for other approved purposes. There continues to be a considerable demand for the use of the weights by weighbridge owners and repairers for calibrating new and repaired machines and by industrialists for a variety of purposes such as testing cranes and other machinery. During the year, 1,223 tons of weights were loaned to 126 (134 in 1970/71) hirers and transported for these purposes. The economies in time and manpower which the unit makes possible have thus been made as widely available as official use permits and the income derived from hire charges valuably contributes to the economical operation of the service which is (and has been since its inception) self-supporting. Difficulty continues to be experienced in meeting all the demands for the service. Income from the hire of the unit during the year was £5,002 (£5,083 in 1970/71).

Public Weighbridge Attendants

Under the Weights and Measures Act 1963 no person may attend to a weighing or measuring by public weighing or measuring equipment unless he holds a certificate from a Chief Inspector that he has sufficient knowledge for the proper performance of his duties.

During the year 15 new applicants were examined. 14 were granted certificates and 1 failed to satisfy the Examining Officer.

Department of Trade and Industry Notices of Approval of New Patterns, etc.

Weighing and measuring appliances of certain types, and those embodying novel features, may not be stamped by Inspectors until the pattern has been approved by the Department of Trade and Industry.

During the year, 7 D.T.I. Notices were issued in respect of new patterns of weighing and measuring appliances. The total number of Notices relating to special patterns of weighing and measuring instruments issued by the Department of Trade and Industry for trade use is now 1,514. Many of the patterns embody highly complicated mechanical and electrical devices including electronic computers and television circuits.

Local Standards

The County Local Standards of Weight and Measure are deposited at the County Hall. They have been examined at the statutory intervals and are complete and in good condition.

The copies of the standards used by the Inspectors were compared with the Local Standards at least twice during the year as required by statute and adjusted where necessary. The precision balances, scalebeams and appliances have been periodically examined and repairs and adjustments carried out and replacements provided when necessary. The equipment generally is in satisfactory condition.

The Department now possesses a complete set of metric local standards and considerable progress has been made in providing Inspectors Working Standards in readiness for the expected changeover to the metric system of weights and measures. The provision of this comparatively expensive equipment has been spread over a number of years and sufficient is now held to meet any foreseeable requirements. During the year we acquired 10 tonnes of $\frac{1}{2}$ tonne roller weights for testing weighbridges, many of which are either converted or being converted to metric indication to fulfil the requirements of the building and construction industry which has already 'gone metric'.

Inspection of Traders' Premises and Street Traders

In the administrative County (i.e. excluding Newark Municipal Borough and Beeston and Stapleford Urban District), there are 9,197 premises, etc. known to be liable to weights and measures inspection. These comprise the following trades and categories:-

| | |
|---|-------|
| Shops (including Post Offices) | 4,003 |
| Farms, Smallholdings and Market Gardens | 2,246 |
| Collieries and Quarries | 81 |
| Public Houses, Proprietary Clubs, etc. | 670 |
| Petrol and Oil Stations | 455 |
| Factories, Railway Stations, Wharves and Carriers' Depots | 410 |
| Coal Dealers | 344 |
| Hawkers and itinerant vendors trading in the County | 750 |
| Miscellaneous, including Public Institutions and Establishments | 238 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 9,197 |
| | <hr/> |

During the year, 7,074 inspections of one kind or another were made under the Weights and Measures Act by your Inspectors. A number of traders were cautioned for minor offences, but there was only one prosecution for a weights and measures offence - an all-time record - which reflects credit on traders in the County.

The official visitation of trading and industrial premises is probably the most important part of an Inspector's work under the Weights and Measures Act. Although the number of inspections of premises was raised by over 700 during the year, priority duties again prevented the achievement of our target of visiting every trading premises in the County at least once in the year. The visit provides the opportunity to check the accuracy of trading weighing and measuring appliances under the actual conditions of use and frequently results in small errors, the cumulative effect of which can often be considerable, being corrected before any serious damage is done either to the public or the owner. Perhaps of even more importance, the visit enables the trader to discuss with the Inspector his difficulties and problems and to obtain advice in the many matters affecting trade within the province of the Department. It has always been the policy of

the Department to afford every possible assistance to traders in understanding and complying with their obligations and the majority of traders appreciate this attitude. The coming into operation of the Trade Descriptions Act and the considerable extension of the informative labelling requirements by the Labelling of Food Regulations greatly increased the demands on Inspectors' time for advisory assistance to traders and packers of various merchandise.

Detailed statistics are given in the summary on pages 27 - 30.

Particulars of the prosecution are given on page 32.

Inspection of Commodities sold by Weight, Measure or Number

263,177 items of various kinds were examined by your Inspectors, of which number 799 were found to be deficient in weight, measure or number. Most of the deficiencies were small and mainly due to lack of proper care in checking automatic and other weighing and measuring machinery. Some were attributable to evaporation due to the use of unsuitable packing materials and others to prolonged storage, sometimes under unsatisfactory conditions.

A further 1,430 items were found to be defective in labelling or not made up in prescribed quantities, etc.

Appropriate action was taken in respect of all goods not complying with prescribed requirements.

Although many kinds of foods are required to be packed in simple easily-understood quantities, far too many goods are still permitted to be packed in unfamiliar quantities and in complicated fractions of the ounce and pound which tend to confuse and confound purchasers.

Detailed statistics are given on pages 29 - 30.

Sale of Petrol and Lubricating Oil

There are 493 premises in the administrative County where petrol, diesel fuel and lubricating oil are sold to motorists and there are 1,971 measuring instruments in use at these premises. Many of these instruments in addition to measuring the fuel also calculate and visibly indicate the price of individual deliveries. The latest development in petrol retailing is the self-service installation in which the pumps on the station are controlled from a central electronically operated controlling and accounting console. The accuracy of price-calculating mechanisms and systems is checked by Inspectors and they are generally very reliable. The necessity to do this work is however adding greatly to the time which must be spent on this section of our activities.

337 new or repaired petrol pumps were tested and sealed by your Inspectors before being put into use. The majority of these tests were necessitated by the conversion of price-computing mechanisms to the decimal system.

435 visits were paid to garages and filling stations. 1,539 petrol pumps and other measuring instruments were tested under the conditions of use and 143 were found to be incorrect or in need of repair. Most of the inaccuracies were not serious and were the result of ordinary wear and tear. Instruments which are found to give inaccurate measure are not allowed to be used until they have been adjusted and approved by an Inspector of Weights and Measures.

The high cost of petrol has made precise measurement and price-calculation essential in the interests of both the garage proprietor and the motoring public.

Even small inaccuracies can involve buyer or seller in serious financial loss but it may be reassuring to motorists to know that wear and tear in petrol measuring instruments in most cases tends to cause over-measure.

Checks on declared Octane Values and 'Star' ratings, which reflect the price-value of various brands of petrol, were carried out during the year (see page 11.

Testing of Tyre Pressure Gauges

The Department offers a free testing service for Tyre Pressure Gauges when Inspectors visit garages and filling stations for other purposes. The early suspicion that many of these gauges were inaccurate was again fully confirmed by the year's work. Of 241 gauges tested during the year no less than 94 (39%) were found to be defective. This is a small improvement on the position in the previous year when 43% of the gauges tested were found defective. A number of pencil-type pocket gauges were also tested for private motorists who had heard of the service.

It is clear that much of the trouble with tyre gauges is attributable to the design and construction of some popular types which are neither suitable nor sufficiently robust to withstand the rough usage which they receive on the average filling station forecourt.

Sale of Coal, Coke, Firewood and other Fuels

During the year your Inspectors made 230 inspections in the course of which they checked 5,756 loads, sacks and other quantities of which 23 (0.40%) were deficient in weight. 1 prosecution in respect of short weight in the sale of solid fuel was instituted.

A number of deliveries were checked for private purchasers who thought that they had received short weight but in only one instance was any material deficiency disclosed. This resulted in the prosecution mentioned above.

Cattle Markets, etc.

The weighing machines used at cattle markets in the County were tested and certified at six-monthly intervals in accordance with statutory requirements.

Sale of Sand, Ballast, etc.

40 vehicles carrying materials for delivery in the County were examined of which 23 were weighed or measured by your Inspectors. All were found to be satisfactory.

Person Weighing Machines used in Child Welfare and School Medical Services

For some years, your Inspectors have, on request, made tests of machines in use in these services and other County establishments. When necessary the Department arranges for the transport and repair of defective machines and advises as to the suitability of new machines and replacements. During the year, 16 machines were found to be so seriously defective as to require overhaul by the contractor or replacement.

The County Council is by far the largest user of person weighing machines in the County (there are currently upwards of 600 machines in use at schools, clinics and other establishments).

Overseas Trainees

The Department afforded training facilities during the year to a trainee-inspector from the Republic of Nigeria, Mr. E. A. Joseph, who joined the Department in September 1969. He returned to Nigeria in June 1971.

TRADE DESCRIPTIONS AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Trade Descriptions Act

This Act is the basis of our services under this heading. It controls false or misleading trading descriptions of a very wide range of goods, services and prices and provides substantial criminal sanctions where its requirements are offended. Perhaps the only commodity of importance to the public which it does not control is 'real' property, i.e. land, including houses, buildings, etc. standing thereon, although it does apply to some services offered in relation to such property.

The enforcement of the Act is a mandatory duty of the Weights and Measures Authority and, in practice, divides into two parts:

1. The duty to exercise vigilance through inspectors to prevent the use of false or misleading descriptions in trade; and
2. To receive and appropriately deal with complaints from members of the public.

The Act and the work of Weights and Measures Authorities under it has had a salutary effect on the retail trade and the industries serving it. Misleading descriptions and similar sharp practices which had become rife in the retail trade and in advertising still occur but on a very greatly reduced scale. It is fair to say that, with notable exceptions, traders and particularly manufacturers, are making great efforts to comply with the many requirements which apply to the description, labelling, etc. of goods. Not the least of your inspectors' burdens, (but one which we welcome as it saves even more work in the long run) are the numerous requests for advice on labelling and description which we receive from manufacturers and traders.

During the year your Inspectors made 1,156 visits of inspection and investigation for the purposes of the Act. Among the wide variety of articles and products examined and tested in the course of this work were 37 samples of various kinds of motor spirit which were tested for Octane Rating. In contrast with earlier experience (when a number of samples were found to be below the declared rating, some seriously so) all the samples were of satisfactory quality. This is a good example of the salutary effect of the Act and its enforcement on the trade and of the protection which it affords to the public.

4 samples of various items of clothing and fabrics were also obtained and tested. These were all found to be of satisfactory quality.

16 prosecutions were instituted and completed during the year. A number of others were pending at the time the year closed.

Consumer Advisory Services

849 complaints were received from members of the public, summarised in the following categories:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Clothing and fabrics | 50 |
| Cut-price offers, trading stamps, overcharging, etc. | 27 |
| Films and photographs | 5 |
| Food: description, price and quality | 39 |
| Furniture, furnishing goods, carpets, etc. | 45 |
| Heavy bulk goods, e.g. solid fuel, top soil, turf, etc. | 30 |
| House repairs and extensions, central heating, etc. | 73 |
| Household appliances, e.g. gas and electric fires, storage heaters, washing machines, sewing machines, etc. | 52 |
| Mail order goods | 12 |
| Mortgage, bank loan, insurance and hire purchase | 9 |
| Motor vehicles, caravans, tyres, accessories, etc. | 290 |
| Package holidays | 17 |
| Petrol, oils, etc. | 22 |
| Pets and animals | 8 |
| Plants and trees | 4 |
| Services, e.g. maintenance and repair contracts, etc. | 4 |
| Television, radio, refrigerators, etc. | 55 |
| Toys and prams | 10 |
| Various goods: weight, measure or number | 7 |
| Miscellaneous | 90 |

Some of the complaints were clearly of doubtful merit, mostly from persons who had made a bad bargain in an otherwise straightforward deal and could usually be quickly disposed-of. Many however justified full investigation which, in a considerable number of cases proved to be both difficult and time-consuming. Where offences were revealed, prosecutions were instituted in all cases in which it was considered that the public interest justified this course and in a considerable number of others official warnings were issued. From the complainants' point of view probably the most rewarding feature was that in many cases where it was justified our investigations resulted in civil redress (substantial in some cases!) being obtained.

In too many cases, however, particularly in relation to used motor cars, the complainants were the victims of slick salesmen who carefully avoided anything in the nature of a false or misleading description and in quite a few cases, even persuaded the gullible victim to sign an undertaking to put the vehicle in roadworthy condition himself! It cannot be too strongly emphasised that no action can be taken under the Trade Descriptions Act in the absence of proof of false or misleading description and that purchasers should carefully read and make sure they understand any document or paper they are invited to sign.

Consumer Protection Acts and Regulations

The County Council has a duty to enforce the undermentioned regulations throughout the County with the exception of the Urban District of Beeston and Stapleford, but by arrangement between the County Council and the Urban District Council your Inspectors also act for that Authority. Your Inspectors made 1,596 visits of inspection for the purposes of these Acts and Regulations.

Toys (Safety) Regulations

These regulations impose requirements in relation to toys to prevent or to reduce risk of death or injury to children. Serious accidents have resulted from the use of dangerous materials and the regulations, among other things, prohibit the use of paint containing harmful proportions of lead, arsenic, soluble antimony, barium, cadmium or chromium and the use of celluloid in the construction of toys.

Your Inspectors have examined large numbers of toys offered for sale. 37 suspected items were subjected to analysis. 3 items failed to comply with the regulations in relation to excessive lead content in the paint. Stocks of the latter were immediately removed from sale for destruction and the retailers and importers cautioned. A description of the toys was circulated to other authorities.

Nightdresses Regulations

Inspections are made in the course of other duties and retailers stocks examined to ascertain that the requirements as to inflammable nightwear and labelling were being observed. No unsatisfactory article was found.

Electrical Appliances (Colour Code) Regulations 1969 and 1970

These Regulations came into full effect on 1st April 1971. They require the conductors in the power leads of electrical appliances to be coloured to indicate polarity as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Earth conductor: | Green and Yellow |
| Live conductor: | Brown |
| Neutral conductor: | Blue |

The purpose is to bring practice in this Country into conformity with the International Colour Code. Hitherto the colours conventionally used in this Country were Green or Green and Yellow for Earth, Red for Live and Black for Neutral.

Shops dealing in electrical appliances have been visited during the year with the following results:

| | |
|---|-----|
| No. of items examined | 917 |
| No. of items which failed to comply | 204 |
| No. of premises at which infringements were found | 75 |

In all cases where infringements were found the shopkeeper was warned and required to take the articles off-sale until new leads had been fitted.

Electric Blankets (Safety) Regulations 1971

These Regulations came into effect on 1st January 1972 and require, in the interests of safety, that Electric Blankets shall either bear the Certification mark of the British Electrotechnical Approvals Board for Household Equipment or alternatively comply with the specification prescribed in the Regulations. The Regulations further require electric blankets to be marked to indicate electrical voltage and current ratings and with various warnings for the information of the user.

Shops selling these articles are being visited with a view to eliminating from stocks any items which do not comply with the Regulations.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the whole of the County except the Borough of Mansfield and the Urban Districts of Beeston and Stapleford and Sutton-in-Ashfield.

During the year, your Inspectors obtained 1,799 samples of various foods and drugs for examination and analysis for compositional quality and the presence of injurious or deleterious ingredients.

Regular routine checks on fruits and vegetables for residues of horticultural poisons were continued during the year and 56 samples obtained in various parts of the County were tested and reported to be satisfactory.

1,165 (1,121 in 1970/71) samples were submitted for a complete formal analysis by the Public Analyst.

The following is a summary of the samples examined during the year:-

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|------------------------------|-----|
| Beverages | 42 | Herbs and Stuffings | 16 |
| Butter and Margarine | 29 | Ice Cream | 29 |
| Cakes and Pastries | 56 | Jams and Preserves | 43 |
| Cake Flour and Mixtures | 20 | Meat Products | 189 |
| Cereals | 22 | Milk | 477 |
| Condiments, Pickles and Sauces | 47 | Milk (Channel Islands) etc. | 110 |
| Cooking Oils and Fats | 29 | Milk, Condensed | 24 |
| Cordials and Mineral Waters | 37 | Pudding and Pudding Mixtures | 23 |
| Dried Fruit | 26 | Raw Meat | 23 |
| Drugs, various | 59 | Sweets | 48 |
| Fish Products | 28 | Table Jellies and Powders | 24 |
| Fresh Fruits and Vegetables | 57 | Wines and Spirits | 104 |
| Fruits and Vegetables (canned) | 35 | Miscellaneous Foods | 202 |

Of those submitted for formal analysis by the Public Analyst the following samples were found to be adulterated, sub-standard or otherwise open to objection:-

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Cake Flour and Mixtures | 1 |
| Condiments, Pickles and Sauces | 3 |
| Drugs, Various | 2 |
| Fresh Fruit and Vegetables | 1 |
| Meat Products | 14 |
| Milk | 5 |
| Sweets | 2 |
| Miscellaneous Foods | 9 |

Appropriate action was taken in relation to all articles reported adulterated, sub-standard, etc.

119 complaints regarding defective foods, etc. were received from members of the public during the year. These were mostly concerned with the presence of 'foreign' bodies (e.g. splinters of glass, metal objects, dead insects, etc.) and stale and mouldy foods. Every complaint of this kind was thoroughly investigated and appropriate action taken. Complaints from members of the public resulted in 13 prosecutions. Details are given on pages 32.

Milk

The wilful adulteration of milk with water which caused trouble for many years is now practically non-existent in the County. The proportion of naturally poor quality milk has also greatly decreased. The improved wholesale marketing arrangements of recent years, which penalise low quality, have done much to eradicate low quality products.

Channel Islands and South Devon Milk

Milk sold as Jersey, Guernsey, Channel Islands or South Devon commands a higher price than other milk and must contain a minimum of 4.0% of milk fat. 110 samples have been taken, all of which were satisfactory.

Antibiotic Residues in Milk

96 samples of milk were tested for residues of antibiotics used in the treatment of mastitis in dairy cows. All were found to be satisfactory.

Antibiotics are now widely used in the control of mastitis in cows and lack of reasonable care in their use can result in the contamination of milk. Routine tests for this contamination have been carried out for some time and this is the second year in which I have been able to report that no samples were contaminated.

Meat Products

These include sausages, meat pies, canned meats, brawns, pastes, etc. Although there have been improvements in recent years, particularly in relation to canned products, compounded and processed meat foods have given more trouble than any other commodity to food and drugs authorities. This was mainly due to the ease with which the skilful food technician can sophisticate the low quality product made with cheap ingredients and the minimum of meat. Good examples of this are the sausage which is sometimes loaded with excessive proportions of fat and the small meat pie in which meat is sometimes far from being the predominant ingredient. There were two prosecutions in respect of the sale of sausages substantially deficient in meat (see page 32).

189 meat products of various kinds were checked during the year of which 14 were regarded as being of unsatisfactory compositional quality.

Meat (Treatment) Regulations 1964

23 samples of raw meat were examined for prohibited additives. These additives are mainly of a type which improve the colour and restore the appearance of stale raw meat and include Ascorbic, Erythorbic and Nicotinic acids and Nicotinamide. All were found to be satisfactory.

Chemical Preservatives, Artificial Sweeteners, etc. in Food

A routine check for these additives was carried out on many of the samples obtained. 7 samples contained undeclared, prohibited or excessive preservative, and 1 sample contained prohibited colouring. Appropriate action was taken in these cases.

Vitamin content of Food and Drugs

During the year, 11 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for the determination of claimed vitamin content and were found to be satisfactory.

Labelling and Advertising of Foods

A constant scrutiny of labels, descriptions and advertisements (including television advertisements) of foods offered for sale in the County is maintained by the Inspectors. In a number of cases, manufacturers and packers have been required to amend descriptions and illustrations considered to be misleading as to the nature, substance and quality of goods.

The statutory requirements as to the labelling, description and advertising of food are currently embodied in numerous Orders and Regulations dating back to 1953.

The Ministry have consolidated most of the requirements and strengthened many of them in the consumer's interest, in the Labelling of Food Regulations 1970. In order to give the trade time to comply with the many new requirements the majority of the new Regulations do not come into force until 1st January 1973.

General

I again record my thanks to the Public Analyst, Mr. Hugh Childs, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., the Deputy Public Analyst, Mr. A. O. Jones, M.A., F.R.I.C., and Mr. E. P. Underwood, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Additional Public Analyst, for their kindly co-operation and valuable assistance during the year. Their expert advice has been sought and freely given on many matters of difficulty, and I acknowledge with gratitude the valuable services they render to the Department in the analysis of many difficult and complex substances.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS

The County Council are responsible for the licensing of all dealers (including processors) in Pasteurised, Sterilised, Untreated (Raw) and Ultra Heat Treated Milk and for the enforcement of the regulations applicable thereto in the area for which they are the food and drugs authority (i.e. the area of the County excluding the Borough of Mansfield and the Urban Districts of Beeston and Stapleford and Sutton-in-Ashfield). The supervision of premises and plant and the necessary sampling are carried out by the Department.

The total number of licensees at 31st March 1972, was 794.

Licensed Processors

There are currently 5 licensed processors in the area, and the quantity of milk treated is approximately 16,000 gallons per day.

All premises were visited at frequent intervals and an examination made of the plant, charts and recording thermometers and other records. During the year 535 samples were taken and submitted to the prescribed tests.

Summary of Sampling

1. - Licensed Processors:

| | |
|--|-----|
| No. samples examined | 535 |
| Samples failing to comply: | |
| Phosphatase (sufficiency of heat-treatment) .. | 1 |
| Methylene Blue (keeping quality) | 1 |

In addition to routine sampling visits, 55 surprise inspections were made at the licensed plants at times when an official visit might not have been expected. These visits are invaluable in securing continuity of good practice by operatives.

Improvements in plant and technique continue to be made and one acknowledges with appreciation the ready response of licensees to the suggestions of inspecting officers.

Considerable attention was again given to the efficiency of milk bottle cleansing and bottle cleansing machines. 333 bottles were bacteriologically examined for cleanliness of which 7 were unsatisfactory. In all cases of failure, immediate action was taken to discover and eliminate the cause and to confirm the remedy by follow-up sampling.

2. - Licensed Retailers and Producer Retailers (other than processors):

| | <i>Licensed Retailers</i> | <i>Producer Retailers</i> |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| No. samples examined | 672 | 48 |
| <hr/> | | |
| No. failures: | | |
| Phosphatase (sufficiency of heat-treatment) | 2 | - |
| Methylene Blue (keeping quality) | 12 | 5 |
| Turbidity (sterilised milk only) | - | - |

The Methylene Blue failures of samples taken from licensed retailers were mainly attributable to the storage of milk in retail shops for unduly long periods or under unsatisfactory conditions. Most were due to failure to appreciate the necessity for proper precautions rather than carelessness and all offenders were appropriately advised and warned as to the consequences of further failures.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who are the Licensing Authority in the case of Producer Retailers, were notified of the 5 samples from these sources which failed the Methylene Blue test.

The examination of samples and specimens under these Regulations is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

I again record my appreciation of the services afforded by the Laboratory and, in particular, my thanks to Dr. E. R. Mitchell, the Director of the Nottingham Laboratory and his staff, for their kindly co-operation in this work.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE (GRADING AND MARKING)

ACTS, 1928 and 1931 and THE EGGS (MARKING AND STORAGE) REGULATIONS, 1965

The Regulations dealing with the marking, storage and sale of preserved eggs provide useful safeguards to the public against the practice, which was prevalent at one time, of passing-off preserved and cold stored eggs as new laid.

One trader is registered for the storage of preserved eggs in the County.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926

116 samples of animal feeding stuffs and 103 samples of soil fertilisers were taken and analysed for the purpose of testing manufacturers' and dealers' warranties.

8 feeding stuffs and 9 fertilisers failed to comply with warranties. Warnings were issued to the manufacturers in appropriate cases.

Summary of samples taken and analysed during the year:-

Feeding Stuffs

| <i>Article</i> | <i>No. Taken</i> | <i>Failed to Comply</i> | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----|
| Cattle Food | 15 | 2 | Total samples | 116 |
| Pig Food | 50 | 2 | Failed to comply | |
| Poultry Food | 51 | 4 | with declaration | 8 |

Fertilisers

| <i>Article</i> | <i>No. Taken</i> | <i>Failed to Comply</i> | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----|
| Bone Meal | 5 | | | |
| Compound Fertiliser | 27 | 2 | | |
| Dahlia and Chrysanthemum Fertiliser | 2 | 2 | | |
| Dried Blood | 3 | | | |
| General Fertiliser | 25 | | | |
| Hoof and Horn Fertiliser | 1 | | | |
| Indoor Plant Food | 1 | 1 | | |
| John Innes Base Manure | 1 | | | |
| Lawn Fertiliser | 8 | | | |
| Lawn Sand | 1 | 1 | | |
| Liquid Fertiliser | 12 | 2 | Total samples | 103 |
| Nitro Chalk | 1 | | | |
| Rose Fertiliser | 8 | | Failed to comply | |
| Steamed Bone Meal | 1 | 1 | with declaration | 9 |
| Sulphate of Ammonia | 1 | | | |
| Sulphate of Potash | 1 | | | |
| Sulphur Phosphate | 1 | | | |
| Superphosphate | 1 | | | |
| Tomato Fertiliser | 2 | | | |
| Vegetable and Potato Fertiliser | 1 | | | |

The majority of the failures were of a minor nature but in every instance they were taken up with the seller and/or compounder and warnings issued in appropriate cases. Some of the products which did not comply with the declaration were in fact due to under-declaration by the compounder of useful ingredients and therefore could not ordinarily be considered prejudicial to the purchaser. The Act, however, requires the declaration to be correct within fairly generous limits and these samples were therefore failures within the meaning of the Act.

One compounder was prosecuted under the Act in respect of a Poultry Balancer Mash which was seriously deficient in protein - the main feeding ingredient (see page 34).

This Act represents the only statutory protection available to farmers and horticulturalists against misrepresentation and harmful ingredients in a considerable range of commodities which are important raw materials of their industry. The basic legislation has been allowed to become out-of-date and in some respects inconsistent with contemporary trading practice but happily few manufacturers and dealers deliberately take advantage of its deficiencies. Despite difficulties, local authorities have continued to do much useful work in maintaining the quality of fertilisers and feeding stuffs.

After many years of difficulties and repeated protests by County Councils and their Association as to the inadequacies of the 1926 Act, the legislation

has now been completely revised in Part IV of the Agriculture Act 1970. The new legislation is not yet in force, having been delayed by the necessity to revise the rather complicated Regulations which is an essential preliminary. This work is, however, known to be in the advanced stage and it is to be hoped that the new legislation can be brought into full operation early in 1973.

I record my thanks to the County Agricultural Analyst, Mr. Hugh Childs, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., and his Deputy, Mr. A. O. Jones, M.A., F.R.I.C., and my deep appreciation of their ready co-operation and valuable assistance during the year in all matters pertaining to the administration of this Act.

EXPLOSIVES ACTS

These Acts regulate the use, storage and conveyance of explosives in the interests of security and public safety. Large quantities of explosives are stored and used in the County, chiefly in the mining industry and particular attention has been given this year to the security of these stores against unlawful entry.

In addition to the major stores, 433 (510 in 1970/71) premises are registered for the storage for sale of fireworks. The continued annual reduction in the number of shop-keepers selling fireworks no doubt reflects the growing public realisation of their dangerous properties and the effect of the propaganda by organisations interested in preventing the appalling accidents which children and others sometimes suffer as a result of carelessness in handling fireworks.

Regular inspection of the larger stores has been maintained and generally they are in excellent condition. The constant attention which your Inspectors have given to these stores and their insistence on the strict observance of good practice, both in the security of the premises and in the handling of explosives, has produced a high level of compliance with the regulations in this County. Unfortunately, as with many other things, persons who constantly handle explosives tend to become contemptuous of their dangerous properties, and it is found that the frequent appearance of an Inspector, particularly when he is least expected, is the most effective method of maintaining good practice.

Considerable attention was again given to the storage of fireworks in shops and warehouses and your Inspectors are particularly vigilant in this connection during the 'fireworks' season. Some shopkeepers and others handling fireworks do not always realise that in bulk they are very dangerous goods. The widespread damage which can be caused by an ignited collection of fireworks has to be seen to be fully realised. The Home Office Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Explosives show that in various parts of the country serious fires and injuries occur every year as a result of lack of care in handling and keeping fireworks. So far as is known, there was no accident in connection with the storage or sale of explosives (including fireworks) in the County during the year.

SHOPS ACTS

YOUNG PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) ACT

The County Council are responsible for the administration of these Acts in the following districts:-

Urban Districts: Eastwood; Warsop.

Rural Districts: Basford; Bingham; East Retford; Newark; Southwell; Worksop.

Your Inspectors have made 352 visits of inspection. These include inspections during ordinary working hours when records of hours of employment, statutory notices and conditions of employment are checked, and 'surprise' inspections made at times when a visit may not be expected.

The Acts regulate the hours of closing of shops and, to a limited extent, the conditions of employment in shops. In particular, they restrict the hours of employment of persons under 18 and, in conjunction with the Young Persons (Employment) Act prescribe the working hours and conditions of employment of young persons in shops, hotels, clubs, theatres, cinemas and similar places.

5 Orders made by the County Council, and affecting the hours of closing of shops, are in operation.

Much of the work of your Inspectors under these Acts is, of necessity, of an advisory nature. The intricacies of the legislation are such that minor infringements do occur and are usually appropriately dealt with by advice and warning by the Inspector. The legislation now falls far short of achieving its original purposes and urgently needs revision particularly in relation to Sunday Trading.

PHARMACY AND POISONS AND PHARMACY AND MEDICINES ACTS

The Department enforces the provisions of these Acts which control the sale by shopkeepers, other than registered chemists, of poisons in Part II of the Poisons List and the labelling and claims made for certain substances recommended as medicines. 327 shopkeepers in the County are registered for the sale of poisons.

The majority of registered shopkeepers deal only in poisons such as household disinfectants and ammonia. Shopkeepers dealing in the more dangerous horticultural and agricultural poisons are regularly visited for the examination of poisons registers and to ensure that the regulations as to storage and sale are strictly observed.

Your Inspectors keep a watchful eye on these matters in the course of their visits to shops for other purposes. During the year, 1,071 inspections were made under these Acts.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT, 1960, Section 224 and

The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations, 1966

The statistics of our work during the year indicate that the proportion of overloaded vehicles on our roads is slightly lower than was the case last year. Unfortunately the pressure of priority duties again made it impossible to give as much attention to this work during the year as we would have preferred, but it is hoped to do better during the year 1972/73.

1971/72 (1970/71)

| | | |
|--|-----------|--------|
| Number of days during year on which routine inspections were carried out | 40 | (28) |
| Total time during which routine inspections were carried out during the year | 203 hours | (155) |
| Total Number of Vehicles inspected | 1,387 | (977) |
| " " " " weighed | 649 | (595) |
| " " " " overloaded in toto or on individual axles or both | 260 | (226) |
| " " " " overloading contraventions | 343 | (311) |
| " " " " offences prosecuted | 179 | (143) |
| " Penalties imposed by Courts | £1,244 | (£901) |

The contraventions detected probably still represent a small proportion of the total number of breaches of the law in relation to the laden weight of motor vehicles. Of the 1,387 (977 in 1970/71) vehicles inspected it will be noted that 260 (226 in 1970/71) were overloaded. The Inspectors exercised a discretion, based on visual appearance, in selecting vehicles for inspection and the proportion of overloaded vehicles to the total number inspected (18.74%) is therefore higher than the true average. Making ample allowance for the effect of selective inspection, however, the true proportion of overloaded vehicles is still serious and probably exceeds 5 per cent of the heavy vehicles on the main roads.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

In addition to our statutory duties, the department affords investigatory and technical services in appropriate matters to other departments of the County Council. These include quantitative checks on road materials and quantitative and qualitative checks on many other commodities supplied to the County Council which is probably the largest individual purchaser of foodstuffs in the County. Other services include certifying weights of motor vehicles for taxation purposes and the testing of person and other weighing machines and arrangements for transport and repair thereof when necessary. In relation to the latter, it is perhaps not generally realised that the County Council is by far the largest user of person weighing machines in the County.

162 goods vehicles were checked-weighed in various parts of the County in connection with the assessment of motor tax. Additional duties totalling £740 were recovered.

Your Inspectors also certify the weight or measure of articles on request by residents and traders in the County. During the year many articles were checked in this way, including coal, coke and various foodstuffs. Similarly, the department also arranges for the expert examination and analysis of various products when considered desirable. In many cases, purchasers' suspicions prove to be unfounded but some disclose malpractices which result in prosecutions.

COUNTY COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

I again had the honour of acting as an advisory officer to the County Councils Association during part of the year, the sixteenth which I have served in this capacity. In view of my pending retirement from the service, I was released from this very worthwhile duty at my own request at the end of June 1971.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE UNDER THE

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT

My appointment by the Minister as a member of this Committee and its Sub-Committees continued during the year.

I record my appreciation of the facilities provided over many years by the County Council in connection with the above appointments which despite the constant attention which they demanded brought me great satisfaction and many good friends in many places.

STAFF

I again record my appreciation of the efficiency and zeal with which the Inspectors have performed their many and varied duties and of the loyal co-operation which I have received from all members of the staff of my Department. The work summarised in this Report is a testimony to their efforts, and I cannot speak too highly of the manner in which they have all responded to increasingly heavy demands on their services.

Retirement - Mrs. E. M. Trenchard

Mrs. Trenchard, Chief Clerk in the Department, retired on 31st April 1971 after completing 31 years in the service of the County Council. I cannot speak too highly of her excellent services to the Department and above all of the reliability and precision which characterised all her work. She was an excellent colleague and we all wish her well in her retirement.

Promotions:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| W. T. Harwood | Chief Clerk | 1st May 1971 |
| I. Robinson (Mrs.) | Senior Clerk | 1st May 1971 |

Appointments:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| P. A. Sallabank | Trainee Assistant | 13th September 1971 |
| E. Smith (Mrs.) | Clerk Typist | 17th May 1971 |
| G. A. Holding (Mrs.) | Clerk Typist | 2nd August 1971 |

Resignation:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| S. L. Boyd (Mrs.) | Shorthand Typist | 30th September 1971 |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|

Examination Successes:

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|---|
| R. G. McHattie | Inspector (Nottingham) | Part I of Final Examination for Diploma in Consumer Affairs |
| R. G. McHattie | Inspector (Nottingham) | Part I of Final Examination for Diploma in Municipal Administration |

G. K. Hoe

Trainee Assistant
(Nottingham)

Certificate of
Qualification as an
Inspector of Weights and
Measures (Department of
Trade and Industry
Examination)

Statistical Tables relating to the work of the Department during the year and a Statement of Income and Expenditure are appended hereto.

I offer my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Control Committee for their keen interest and support in all branches of the work of the Department, and to the Clerk of the Council, the County Treasurer and other Chief Officers for their valuable assistance and co-operation in many matters.

T. L. E. GREGORY

Chief Inspector

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT 1963 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED ON 31st MARCH, 1972

1. Headquarters: County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP.
- Divisional Offices:
- Nottingham County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP.
- Mansfield County Offices, St. John Street, Mansfield.
- Retford County Offices, Chancery Lane, Retford.

STAFF IN POST

| Names of Qualified Staff | Stamp Number | Certificate Number | Date appointed to present post |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chief Inspector: T.L.E. Gregory, M.B.E., D.P.A., F.I.W.M.A. | - | 1783 | 1st October, 1947 |
| Deputy Chief Inspector: J.H. Soar, D.M.A., M.I.W.M.A. | 849 | 2883 | 22nd January, 1969 |
| Senior Inspector (Administration): G.W. Wheatley, M.I.W.M.A. | 676 | 2786 | 22nd January, 1969 |
| Nottingham Division | | | |
| Divisional Inspector: E. Naylor, M.I.W.M.A. | 673 | 2291 | 1st April, 1962 |
| Senior Inspector (Consumer Advisory Section): A.F. Poole, M.I.W.M.A. | 899 | 2925 | 1st September, 1970 |
| Inspectors: | | | |
| P.D. Bostock, M.I.W.M.A. | 1173 | 3038 | 7th August, 1967 |
| G. Akid, M.I.W.M.A. | 482 | 3033 | 7th August, 1967 |
| R.G. McHattie, M.I.W.M.A. | 674 | 3056 | 16th April, 1968 |
| T. Orwin, M.I.W.M.A. | 1300 | 3279 | 1st October, 1970 |

2. (continued)

| Names of Qualified Staff | Stamp Number | Certificate Number | Date appointed to present post |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mansfield Division | | | |
| Divisional Inspector: L.W. Simpson, B.Sc. (Hons.), F.I.W.M.A. | 579 | 1820 | 1st July, 1946 |
| Inspectors: | | | |
| P.E. Templeman, M.I.W.M.A. | 675 | 3181 | 22nd January, 1969 |
| G. Hall, M.I.W.M.A. | 1257 | 3244 | 3rd September, 1969 |
| Retford Division | | | |
| Divisional Inspector: E.H. Marsh, M.I.W.M.A. | 494 | 2160 | 1st April, 1958 |
| Inspector: J. Cowling, M.I.W.M.A. | 867 | 2847 | 25th May, 1965 |
| Senior Assistant holding Statutory Appointment under the Weights & Measures Act: | | | |
| Assistants holding Statutory Appointment under Statutes other than Weights & Measures Act: | | | |
| | | | H.J. Clarke |
| | | | H.J. Clarke |
| | | | G.C. Bakin |
| | | | J.E.B. Rippingale |
| | | | H. Smith |
| | | | J.C.W. Joyce |
| Chief Clerk | : 1 | W.T. Harwood | |
| Clerical Staff | : 7 | | |
| Inspectors' Assistants | : 12 | | |

3.

1972

| EXPENDITURE | | INCOME | |
|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|-------|
| | £ | | £ |
| Salaries | 28,804 | Fees: | |
| Other Expenditure | 13,378 | Section 11 (3) | |
| | | Weights | 111 |
| | | Measures (length) | 6 |
| | | Measures (glass) | - |
| | | Measures (other) | 13 |
| | | Measures (cubic) | 353 |
| | | Weighing Instruments | 1,641 |
| | | Measuring Instruments | 2,835 |
| | | Section 43 | |
| | | Adjusting | 234 |
| | | Other fees | 33 |
| | | Other Income | - |
| Total | 42,182 | Total | 5,226 |

4. ADJUSTING SERVICE provided under Section 43

| | Imperial | | Metric | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|--------|--|
| | | | | |
| Weights adjusted | 1,892 | | 5 | |
| Measures adjusted | - | | - | |

5. SUMMARY OF INSPECTING AND TESTING WORK

(a) Premises: Section 48 (1) (c)

| Number of fixed premises liable to inspection | Number of premises visited at least once | Total number of visits to fixed premises | Total number of visits to mobile premises |
|---|--|--|---|
| 9,197 | 5,804 | 6,388 | 686 |

5. (continued) - Summary of Inspecting and testing work

- (b) Inspection and testing of trade equipment: Section 48 (1) (a)
(c) Equipment submitted for passing as fit for use for trade: Section 11 (3)
(d) Equipment submitted for test: Section 43 (2) (b)

| | Weights | | Length Measures | | Capacity Measures | | Weighing Instruments | Person Weighing Machines | Egg Grading Machines | Petrol, Oil Measuring Instruments | Intox. Liq. Measuring Instruments | Other Measuring Instruments | Cubic Measures |
|-----------|---------|-------|-----------------|------|-------------------|------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | Imp. | Met. | Imp. | Met. | Imp. | Met. | | | | | | | |
| (b) Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Examined | 14,756 | 1,299 | 878 | 31 | 42,238 | 707 | 8,516 | 82 | 107 | 1,539 | 8,308 | 2 | - |
| Correct | 14,569 | 1,294 | 854 | 31 | 42,038 | 706 | 8,206 | 72 | 99 | 1,396 | 8,159 | 2 | - |
| Incorrect | 187 | 5 | 24 | - | 200 | 1 | 310 | 10 | 8 | 143 | 149 | - | - |
| (c) Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Submitted | 1,750 | 5 | 23 | 2 | 3 | - | 414 | 2 | 21 | 337 | 4,727 | 2 | 70 |
| Correct | 1,744 | 5 | 23 | 2 | 3 | - | 408 | 2 | 21 | 329 | 4,701 | 2 | 70 |
| Incorrect | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | 8 | 26 | - | - |
| (d) Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Submitted | 5,863 | 417 | 2 | - | 12 | - | 440 | - | - | - | 46 | 1 | - |
| Correct | 4,087 | 411 | 2 | - | 12 | - | 422 | - | - | - | 46 | - | - |
| Incorrect | 1,776 | 6 | - | - | - | - | 18 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |

5. (continued) (e) Inspection of commodities - heavy goods

| | | Examined but not Tested | Tested | Deficient | Incorrect in other respects |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Solid Fuel | Bags | 3,557 | 2,048 | 23 | 30 |
| | Loads | 33 | 12 | - | - |
| | Rail Vehicles | - | 28 | - | - |
| Wood Fuel | Bags | 63 | 15 | - | 35 |
| | Loads | - | - | - | - |
| Sand and Ballast | Loads | 17 | 23 | - | - |
| Other Bulk Loads | Loads | - | - | - | - |

5. (continued) (f) Inspection of commodities - miscellaneous

| | PREPACKED | | | | | NON-PREPACKED | | | | | No. of Test Purchases |
|--|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----|--|-----------------------------|
| | Examined but not Tested | Tested | Deficient | Incorrect in other respects | Examined but not Tested | Tested | Deficient | Incorrect in other respects | | | |
| Meat, Fish, Poultry and items in Sch. 4, Parts I and II | 13,831 | 10,143 | 54 | 66 | 256 | 238 | 12 | - | 1 | | |
| Bread | - | 15,393 | 128 | - | - | 6,646 | 89 | - | - | | |
| Milk | 11,214 | 679 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | | |
| Intoxicating Liquor | 3,848 | - | - | - | 27 | 12 | - | - | 31 | | |
| Fresh Fruits and Vegetables | 13,175 | 9,011 | 60 | 680 | 474 | 68 | 6 | - | 4 | | |
| Other Foods | 70,213 | 49,841 | 407 | 513 | 410 | 14,172 | 1 | - | 6 | | |
| Non-food commodities other than in 5(e) | 24,921 | 12,734 | 15 | 106 | 45 | 30 | - | - | 3 | | |

7. Number of public weighbridges 32. Number of certificates issued during period to attendants of weighbridges 14.

PARTICULARS OF PROSECUTIONS

6. PARTICULARS OF PROSECUTIONS

| No. | Trade | Nature of Offence | Act and Section | Penalty Imposed (Inc. costs) | Petty Sessional Division |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Journeyman | Short weight solid fuel | Weights and Measures Act 1963 Section 21(1) | £ 5.00 | Mansfield |
| 2 | Bakers | Bread containing pieces of glass | Food and Drugs Act 1955, Section 2 | 46.00 | Worksop |
| 3 | Baby Food Manufacturer | Baby food containing dead flies | " " " " " " | 16.00 | Worksop |
| 4 | Bakers | Bread containing a dead fly | " " " " " " | 21.00 | Nottingham |
| 5 | Grocers | Steak and kidney pie containing boiler scale | " " " " " " | 28.00 | Nottingham |
| 6 | Bakers | Bakewell tart containing a piece of metal | " " " " " " | 41.00 | Nottingham |
| 7 | Bakers | Bread containing a piece of metal | " " " " " " | 35.00 | Nottingham |
| 8 | Grocers | Mouldy pork pie | " " " " " " | 10.00 | Nottingham |
| 9 | Multiple Grocery Store Manager | Mouldy cornish pasty | " " " " " " | 56.00 | Retford |
| 10 | Grocer | Mouldy apple pie | " " " " " " | 26.00 | Nottingham |
| 11 | Grocer | Mouldy apple pie | " " " " " " | 20.00 | Nottingham |
| 12 | Grocer/Baker | Mouldy bread | " " " " " " | 28.00 | Nottingham |
| 13 | Grocer | Mouldy fruit pie | " " " " " " | Absolute discharge Costs £5 | Worksop |
| 14 | Grocer | Mouldy cornish pasty | " " " " " " | 38.00 | Mansfield |
| 15 | Butchers | Pork sausage deficient in meat | " " " " " " (Sausage and Other Meat Regulations 1967) | | |
| 16 | Meat Contractors | Pork sausage deficient in meat | " " " " " " | 18.00 | Southwell |
| 17 | Upholsterers | Supplying upholstery fabric to which a false trade des- cription was applied | Trade Descriptions Act 1968 Section 1(1) (b) | 33.00 | Retford |
| 18 | Upholsterers | Applying false trade descrip- tion to upholstery fabric | " " " " " " 1(1) (a) | 10.00 | Nottinghamshire Quarter Sessions |
| 19 | Garage Proprietor | Applying false trade descrip- tion to motor spirit as to octane rating | " " " " " " 1 | 30.00 | Nottinghamshire Quarter Sessions |
| | | | | 25.00 | Retford |

6. Particulars of Prosecution (continued)

| No. | Trade | Nature of Offence | Act and Section | | Penalty Imposed (Inc. costs) | Petty Sessional Division |
|-----|-------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 20 | Garage Proprietor | Applying false trade description to motor spirit as to octane rating | " | Trade Descriptions Act 1968 Section 1 | £ 15.00 | Retford |
| 21 | Grocers | Offering to supply goods with an indication that they were offered at a lesser price than was the case | | " " | | |
| 22 | Grocers | Offering to supply goods with an indication that they were offered at a lesser price than was the case | | " " | 58.40 | Mansfield |
| 23 | Grocers | Offering to supply goods with an indication that they were offered at a lesser price than was the case | | " " | 50.00 | Mansfield |
| 24 | Motor Trader | Supplying used motor vehicle to which a false trade description was applied as to condition | " | " " | 50.00 | Mansfield |
| 25 | Motor Trader | Supplying used motor vehicle to which a false trade description was applied as to condition | " | " " | 106.00 | Mansfield |
| 26 | Motor Trader | Supplying used motor vehicle to which a false trade description was applied as to condition | " | " " | 54.40 | Nottingham |
| 27 | Motor Trader | Supplying used motor vehicle to which a false trade description was applied as to condition | " | " " | 115.00 | Nottingham |
| 28 | Motor Trader | Applying false trade description as to size of body to used goods vehicle | " | " " | 33.00 | Mansfield |
| 29 | Motor Trader | Supplying used motor vehicle to which a false trade description was applied as to mileage | " | " " | 42.00 | Mansfield |
| | | Supplying used motor vehicle to which a false trade description was applied as to mileage | " | " " | 42.00 | Mansfield |

6. Particulars of Prosecution (continued)

| No. | Trade | Nature of Offence | Act and Section | Penalty Imposed (Inc. costs) | Petty Sessional Division |
|-----------|----------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 30 | Motor Trader | Supplying used motor vehicle to which a false trade description was applied as to mileage | Trade Descriptions Act 1968 Section 1 | £ 27.00 | Mansfield |
| 31 | Motor Trader | Supplying used motor vehicle to which a false trade description was applied as to mileage | " " " 1 | 42.00 | Mansfield |
| 32 | Motor Trader | Supplying used motor vehicle to which a false trade description was applied as to mileage | " " " 1 | 27.00 | Mansfield |
| 33 | Agricultural Merchants | Possession for sale of 'Poultry Grain Balancer Mash' deficient in protein | Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act 1926 Section 4(3) | 20.70 | Newark |
| 34 to 212 | Vehicle Owners and Drivers | Using overloaded vehicles (179 cases) | Road Traffic Act 1960 | 1244.00 | (Nottingham (Retford (Workshop |

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE AND INCOME FOR THE YEAR 1971-72

| <i>EXPENDITURE</i> | £ | £ | <i>INCOME</i> | £ | £ |
|--|------------|---------|---|--------------|--------|
| <u>Weights and Measures</u> | | | <u>Weights and Measures</u> | | |
| Establishment Charges | 42,566 | | Fees and Charges | 9,366 | |
| Purchase, Repair etc. of Equipment | 1,993 | | Weighing vehicles for taxation purposes | 222 | |
| Vehicles - Maintenance, petrol, insurance, etc. | 2,411 | | Charge on Highways Committee for services re overloaded vehicles | 2,109 | |
| Contribution to Renewal and Repairs Fund | 1,100 | | Sundries | 222 | |
| Sundries | <u>254</u> | 48,324 | Recharge to other local authorities | <u>7,335</u> | 19,254 |
| <u>Food and Drugs</u> | | | <u>Food and Drugs</u> | | |
| County Analyst Salary and Fees | 6,765 | | Sundries | | 50 |
| Purchase of samples | 270 | | | | |
| Purchase of Equipment | 7 | | | | |
| Establishment Charges | 13,200 | | | | |
| Sundries | <u>86</u> | 20,328 | | | |
| <u>Explosives Acts</u> | | | <u>Explosives Acts</u> | | |
| Establishment Charges | | 2,829 | Fees | | 561 |
| <u>Shops Acts etc.</u> | | | | | |
| Establishment Charges | | 1,891 | | | |
| <u>Pharmacy and Poisons Act</u> | | | <u>Pharmacy and Poisons Act</u> | | |
| Establishment Charges | | 1,886 | Fees | | 264 |
| <u>Consumer Protection Act</u> | | | <u>Consumer Protection Act</u> | | |
| Establishment Charges | 943 | | Fees and Charges | | 100 |
| Purchase of samples | 13 | | | | |
| Testing of samples | <u>185</u> | 1,141 | | | |
| <u>Trade Descriptions Act</u> | | | <u>Trade Descriptions Act</u> | | |
| Establishment expenses | 28,287 | | Sundries | | 28 |
| Purchase of samples | 50 | | | | |
| Testing of samples | 417 | | | | |
| Sundries | <u>151</u> | 28,905 | | | |
| <u>Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs</u> | | | <u>Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs</u> | | |
| County Analyst Fees | 1,947 | | Sundries | | 15 |
| Establishment Charges | 2,829 | | | | |
| Sundries | <u>24</u> | 4,800 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | 110,104 | | | 20,272 |
| | | | | | |

County Treasurer's Office,
County Hall,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham.

13th July, 1972.



**BEESTON AND STAPLEFORD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF INSPECTOR

OF

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

FOR THE

Year Ended 31st March 1972

BEESTON AND STAPLEFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

1972

0

The Chairman of the Committee:

Councillor J. W. Plowman

The Vice-Chairman of the Committee:

Councillor Miss G. E. Bottomley, T.D.

Councillor H. Clifford
Councillor C. E. Gent
Councillor R. Hulland
Councillor Mrs. E. W. Keen
Councillor A. Oldham
Councillor G. Stanley
Councillor J. B. Streeter
Councillor M. G. Wright, C.C.

0

BEESTON AND STAPLEFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR

OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

for the Year ended

31st March, 1972

— 0 —

COUNTY HALL,
WEST BRIDGFORD,
NOTTINGHAM,
NG2 7QP.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the work of your Inspectors and the provision of Weights and Measures, Trade Descriptions and Consumer Advisory Services by my Department during the year.

The Urban District Council became an independent Weights and Measures Authority, under the procedure prescribed by Section 34(4) of the Weights and Measures Act 1963, with effect on 1st April 1970. By virtue of Section 26 of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, the Urban District Council, as a Weights and Measures Authority, automatically became an independent enforcement authority for the purposes of that Act on the same date.

By Agreement with the County Council, the County Council's Chief Inspector, Deputy Chief Inspector and other Inspectors and Authorised Officers and their equipment and offices, have been made available to the Urban District Council for the discharge of their functions under the two Acts. The Consumer Advisory Service and certain services under Consumer Protection Regulations provided by the County Council's inspectorate, have also been made available in the Urban District.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES SERVICES

The duties of your inspectors under this heading in the Urban District shortly comprise:

1. The testing and official stamping of new and repaired weighing and measuring appliances used or intended for use in trade and industry to ensure that they are fit for such use and conform to the national standards and approved patterns.
2. The regular inspection and testing of weighing and measuring appliances in use at trading and industrial premises.

3. The detection and prevention of fraud and deception in connection with weighing and measuring and generally to protect the public against short weight and measure.
4. The enforcement of the statutes controlling the sale of commodities by weight, measure and number and for this purpose regularly to inspect all premises where such commodities are packed, held for sale or sold.

During the year, your Inspectors tested 11,591 weighing and measuring appliances of which 960 (8.28%) were found to be in need of adjustment or otherwise unfit for use. In the majority of cases the inaccuracies were not serious and were the result of ordinary wear and tear.

In addition to the facilities for the testing and stamping of weighing and measuring appliances available at the permanent office at West Bridgford, temporary local centres were provided for the convenience of traders at the Beeston Manor School, Church Street, Beeston on 19th and 20th April 1971 and at the Church Street Methodist School, Stapleford, on 6th and 7th September 1971.

Fixed equipment such as weighbridges, automatic packing machines, egg-grading machines, petrol and oil measuring instruments, etc. are tested on traders' premises.

The Department provides a special service under the provision of the 1963 Act for the adjustment of weights and measures which have become incorrect due to wear and tear. During the year 254 weights were adjusted by the staff of the Department.

Fees for testing and adjusting weights and measures equipment amounted to £299.

Detailed statistics are given on pages 47 - 49.

Weighbridge Testing

During the year 14 weighbridges were tested with the County Council's heavy testing unit of which 12 were found correct and 2 incorrect.

Public Weighbridge Attendants

Under the Weights and Measures Act 1963, no person may attend to a weighing or measuring by public weighing or measuring equipment unless he holds a certificate from a Chief Inspector that he has sufficient knowledge for the proper performance of his duties.

6 persons working in the Urban District hold Certificates. No new applicants were examined during the year.

Department of Trade and Industry Notices of Approval of New Patterns, etc.

Weighing and measuring appliances of certain types, and those embodying novel features, may not be stamped by Inspectors until the pattern has been approved by the Department of Trade and Industry.

During the year, 7 D.T.I. Notices were issued in respect of new patterns of weighing and measuring appliances. The total number of Notices relating to special patterns of weighing and measuring instruments issued by the Department of Trade and Industry for trade use is now 1,514. Many of the patterns embody highly complicated mechanical and electrical devices including electronic computers and television circuits.

Local Standards

The reference Standards for weighing and measuring equipment used in the Urban District are the County Local Standards of Weight and Measure deposited at the County Hall. They have been examined at the statutory intervals and are complete and in good condition.

The copies of the standards used by the Inspectors were compared with the Local Standards at least twice during the year, as required by statute, and adjusted where necessary. The precision balances, scalebeams and appliances have been periodically examined and repairs and adjustments carried out and replacements provided when necessary. The equipment generally is in satisfactory condition.

Inspection of Traders' Premises and Street Traders

In the Urban District there are 696 premises, etc. known to be liable to weights and measures inspection. These comprise the following trades and categories:-

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Shops (including Post Offices) | 502 |
| Farms, Smallholdings and Market Gardens | 13 |
| Quarries | 2 |
| Public Houses, Proprietary Clubs, etc. | 40 |
| Petrol and Oil Stations | 38 |
| Factories, Railway Stations, Wharves and Carriers' Depots | 55 |
| Coal Dealers | 13 |
| Hawkers and itinerant vendors trading in the area | 13 |
| Miscellaneous, including Public Institutions and Establishments | 20 |
| Total | <hr/> 696 <hr/> |

During the year 793 inspections of one kind or another were made under the Weights and Measures Act by your Inspectors.

The official visitation of trading and industrial premises is probably the most important part of an Inspector's work under the Weights and Measures Act. The visit provides the opportunity to check the accuracy of trading weighing and measuring appliances under the actual conditions of use and frequently results in small errors, the cumulative effect of which can often be considerable, being corrected before any serious damage is done either to the public or the owner. Perhaps of even more importance, the visit enables the trader to discuss with the Inspector his difficulties and problems and to obtain advice in the many matters affecting trade which come within the province of the Department. It has always been the policy of the Department to afford every possible assistance to traders in understanding and complying with their obligations and the majority of traders appreciate this attitude. The coming into operation of the Trade Descriptions Act has greatly increased the demands on Inspectors' time for advisory assistance to traders and packers of various merchandise.

Detailed statistics are given in the summary on pages 48 - 49.

Inspection of Commodities sold by Weight, Measure or Number

141,039 items of various kinds were examined by your Inspectors, of which number 187 were found to be deficient in weight, measure or number. Most of the deficiencies were small and mainly due to lack of proper care in checking automatic

and other weighing and measuring machinery. Some were attributable to evaporation due to the use of unsuitable packing materials and others to prolonged storage, sometimes under unsatisfactory conditons.

A further 599 items were found to be defective in labelling or not made up in prescribed quantities, etc.

Appropriate action was taken in respect of all goods not complying with prescribed requirements. 1 shopkeeper was prosecuted for short weight in the sale of meat.

Detailed statistics are given on pages 50 - 51.

Particulars of Prosecution are given on page 52.

Sale of Petrol and Lubricating Oil

There are 38 premises in the Urban District where petrol, diesel fuel and lubricating oil are sold to motorists and there are 154 measuring instruments in use at these premises. Many of these instruments in addition to measuring the fuel, also calculate and visibly indicate the price of individual deliveries. The accuracy of these price-calculating mechanisms is checked by Inspectors and they are generally very reliable.

55 new or repaired petrol pumps were tested and sealed by your Inspectors before being put into use. The majority of these tests were necessitated by the conversion of price-computing mechanisms to the decimal system.

37 visits were paid to garages and filling stations. 97 petrol pumps and other measuring instruments were tested under the conditions of use and 23 were found to be incorrect or in need of repair. Most of the inaccuracies were not serious, and were the result of ordinary wear and tear. Instruments which are found to give inaccurate measure are not allowed to be used until they have been adjusted and approved by an Inspector of Weights and Measures.

The high cost of petrol has made precise measurement essential in the interests of both the garage proprietor and the motoring public. Even small inaccuracies can involve buyer or seller in serious financial loss but it may be reassuring to motorists to know that wear and tear in petrol measuring instruments in most cases tends to cause over-measure.

Checks on declared Octane Values and 'Star' ratings of various brands of petrol were carried out during the year (see page 43).

Testing of Tyre Pressure Gauges

The Department offers a free testing service for Tyre Pressure Gauges when Inspectors visit garages and filling stations for other purposes. The early suspicion that many of these gauges were inaccurate was again fully confirmed by the year's work. Of 41 gauges tested during the year no less than 23 (56%) were found to be defective, some seriously-so. A number of pencil-type pocket gauges were also tested for private motorists who had heard of the service.

Sale of Coal, Coke, Firewood and other Fuels

During the year your Inspectors made 20 inspections in the course of which they checked 372 loads, sacks and other quantities. All were satisfactory.

TRADE DESCRIPTIONS AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Trade Descriptions Act

This Act is the basis of our services under this heading. It controls false or misleading trading descriptions of a very wide range of goods, services and prices and provides substantial criminal sanctions where its requirements are offended. Perhaps the only commodity of importance to the public which it does not control is 'real' property, i.e. land, including houses, buildings, etc. standing thereon, although it does apply to some services offered in relation to such property.

The enforcement of the Act is a mandatory duty of the Weights and Measures Authority and, in practice, divides into two parts:

1. The duty to exercise vigilance through inspectors to prevent the use of false or misleading descriptions in trade; and
2. To receive and appropriately deal with complaints from members of the public.

The Act and the work of Weights and Measures Authorities under it has had a salutary effect on the retail trade and the industries serving it. Misleading descriptions and similar sharp practices which had become rife in the retail trade and in advertising still occur but on a very greatly reduced scale. It is fair to say that, with notable exceptions, traders and particularly manufacturers, are making great efforts to comply with the many requirements which apply to the description, labelling, etc. of goods. Not the least of your Inspectors' burdens, (but one which we welcome as it saves even more work in the long run) are the numerous requests for advice on labelling and description which we receive from manufacturers and traders.

During the year your Inspectors made 290 visits of inspection and investigation for the purposes of the Act.

Among the wide variety of articles and products examined and tested in the course of this work were 7 samples of various kinds of motor spirit which were tested for Octane Rating. In contrast with earlier experience (when a number of samples were found to be below the declared rating, some seriously-so) all the samples were of satisfactory quality. This is but one example of the salutary effect of the Act and its enforcement on the trade and of the protection which it affords to the public.

Consumer Advisory Services

120 complaints were received from members of the public, summarised in the following categories:

| | |
|--|----|
| Motor vehicles, caravans, motor boats, tyres, accessories etc. | 33 |
| Furniture, furnishing goods, carpets, etc. | 8 |
| Petrol, oils, etc. | 2 |
| Cut-price offers, trading stamps, overcharging, etc. | 3 |
| Television, radio, refrigerators, etc. | 18 |
| Heavy bulk goods, e.g. solid and liquid fuels, top soil, turf etc. | 3 |
| House repairs and extensions, central heating, etc. | 6 |
| Household appliances, e.g. gas and electrical fires, storage heaters, washing machines, food mixers, sewing machines, etc. | 2 |
| Clothing and fabrics | 5 |
| Package holidays | 3 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Services, e.g. maintenance and repair contracts, etc. | 12 |
| Sports goods, toys, etc. | 1 |
| Mail Order goods | 4 |
| Food: description and quality | 2 |
| Various goods: weight, measure or number | 4 |
| Miscellaneous | 14 |

Some of the complaints were clearly of doubtful merit, mostly from persons who had made a bad bargain in an otherwise straightforward deal and could usually be quickly disposed-of. Many however justified full investigation which, in a considerable number of cases, proved to be both difficult and time-consuming. No case arose in the Urban District in which it was considered that the public interest justified prosecution but a considerable number of official warnings were issued. From the complainants' point of view, probably the most rewarding feature was that, in many cases where it was justified, our investigations resulted in civil redress (substantial in some cases!) being obtained.

Consumer Protection Acts and Regulations

The County Council has a duty to enforce the undermentioned regulations throughout the County with the exception of the Urban District of Beeston and Stapleford but by arrangement between the County Council and the Urban District Council, your Inspectors also act for the Urban District Council.

Toys (Safety) Regulations

These regulations impose requirements in relation to toys to prevent or to reduce risk of death or injury to children. Serious accidents have resulted from the use of dangerous materials and the regulations prohibit the use of paint containing harmful proportions of lead, arsenic, soluble antimony, barium, cadmium or chromium and the use of celluloid in the construction of toys.

Your Inspectors have made 33 special visits of inspection and examined large numbers of toys offered for sale. 5 suspected items were subjected to analysis. 3 items were found to contain excessive lead in the paint film. Stocks were removed from sale and the retailers and importers cautioned.

Nightdresses Regulations

Inspections for this purpose are made in the course of other duties. The requirements as to inflammable nightwear and labelling are now generally well observed and no unsatisfactory article was found.

Electrical Appliances (Colour Code) Regulations 1969 and 1970

These Regulations came into full effect on 1st April 1971. They require the conductors in the power leads of electrical appliances to be coloured to indicate polarity as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Earth conductor: | Green and Yellow |
| Live conductor: | Brown |
| Neutral conductor: | Blue |

so as to bring practice in this Country into conformity with the International Colour Code. Hitherto the colours conventionally used in this Country were Green or Green and Yellow for Earth, Red for Live and Black for Neutral.

Shops dealing in electrical appliances are being visited with a view to eliminating from stocks any items which do not comply with the Regulations.

Electric Blankets (Safety) Regulations 1971

These Regulations came into effect on 1st January 1972 and require, in the interests of safety, that Electric Blankets shall either bear the Certification mark of the British Electrotechnical Approvals Board for Household Equipment or alternatively comply with the specification prescribed in the Regulations. The Regulations further require electric blankets to be marked to indicate electrical voltage and current ratings and with various warnings for the information of the user.

Shops selling these articles are being visited with a view to eliminating from stocks any items which do not comply with the Regulations.

STAFF

As indicated earlier in this Report, the Chief and other Inspectors appointed by the County Council for the time being are, by agreement, officers of the Urban District Council for the purposes which are the subject of this Report. Interim reports on our work in the Urban District have been submitted to your General Purposes Committee at three-monthly intervals during the year and either my Deputy or I have attended and presented these reports.

In concluding this Report, I should like to express our thanks to the Urban District Council for their interest and support in our work and for the courtesy and kindness extended to us by the Chairman and Members of the General Purposes Committee, the Clerk of the Council Mr. H.D. Jeffries and other Officers of the Council. In particular, I should like to record my grateful thanks to Mr. Jeffries for his kindly help and wise counsel which enables this experiment in co-operation between two authorities to operate efficiently and agreeably.

T. L. E. GREGORY

Chief Inspector.

BEESTON AND STAPLEFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS ETC. REQUIRED BY THE BOARD OF TRADE UNDER SECTION 38 OF THE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT 1963 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED ON 31st MARCH 1972

1. Address of Weights and Measures Office: County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP.

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2. | STAFF IN POST | | |
| | Names of Qualified Staff | Stamp Number | Certificate Number |
| | | | Date appointed to present post |

Chief Inspector:

T.L.E. Gregory, M.B.E., D.P.A., F.I.W.M.A.

1783 1st April 1970

Deputy Chief Inspector:

J.H. Soar, D.M.A., M.I.W.M.A.

849 2883 1st April 1970

(For particulars of other qualified Inspectors and staff see Annual Report to Nottinghamshire County Council
at pages

3. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND INCOME RELATING TO WEIGHTS AND
MEASURES ADMINISTRATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH

1972

| EXPENDITURE | | INCOME | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|------|
| | £ | | £ |
| Salaries (apportionment) | 2,996 | | |
| Other Expenditure (apportionment) .. | 1,459 | | |
| | | Section 11 (3) | |
| | | Weights | 14 |
| | | Measures (length) | - |
| | | Measures (glass) | - |
| | | Measures (other) | - |
| | | Weighing Instruments | 77 |
| | | Measuring Instruments | 175 |
| | | Section 43 | |
| | | Adjusting | 28 |
| | | Other fees | 5 |
| | | Other Income | - |
| Total | £4,455 | Total | £299 |

4. ADJUSTING SERVICE provided under Section 43

| | Imperial | Metric | |
|---------------------------|----------|--------|--|
| Weights adjusted | 254 | - | |
| Measures adjusted | - | - | |

5. SUMMARY OF INSPECTING AND TESTING WORK
(a) Premises: Section 48 (1) (c)

| Number of fixed premises liable to inspection | Number of premises visited at least once | Total number of visits to fixed premises | Total number of visits to mobile premises |
|---|--|--|---|
| 696 | 689 | 740 | 53 |

5. (continued) - Summary of Inspecting and testing work

- (b) Inspection and testing of trade equipment: Section 48 (1) (a)
 (c) Equipment submitted for passing as fit for use for trade: Section 11 (3)
 (d) Equipment submitted for test: Section 43 (2) (b)

| | Weights | | Length Measures | | Capacity Measures | | Weighing Instruments | Person Weighing Machines | Egg Grading Machines | Petrol, Oil Measuring Instruments | Intox. Liq. Measuring Instruments | Other Measuring Instruments | Cubic Measures |
|-----------|---------|------|-----------------|------|-------------------|------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | Imp. | Met. | Imp. | Met. | Imp. | Met. | | | | | | | |
| (b) Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Examined | 3,504 | 187 | 134 | - | 2,602 | 285 | 956 | 24 | - | 97 | 488 | - | - |
| Correct | 3,135 | 187 | 131 | - | 2,591 | 285 | 926 | 20 | - | 74 | 483 | - | - |
| Incorrect | 369 | - | 3 | - | 11 | - | 30 | 4 | - | 23 | 5 | - | - |
| (c) Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Submitted | 254 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 9 | - | - | 55 | - | - | - |
| Correct | 254 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 9 | - | - | 55 | - | - | - |
| Incorrect | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (d) Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Submitted | 2,866 | 55 | - | - | 4 | - | 67 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Correct | 2,356 | 55 | - | - | 4 | - | 62 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Incorrect | 510 | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

5. (continued) (e) Inspection of commodities - heavy goods

| | | Examined but not Tested | Tested | Deficient | Incorrect in other respects |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Solid Fuel | Bags | 256 | 96 | 6 | 5 |
| | Loads | - | - | - | - |
| | Rail Vehicles | - | - | - | - |
| Wood Fuel | Bags | 20 | - | - | - |
| | Loads | - | - | - | - |
| Sand and Ballast | Loads | - | - | - | - |
| Other Bulk Loads | Loads | - | - | - | - |

5. (continued) (f) Inspection of commodities - miscellaneous

| | PREPACKED | | | | NON-PREPACKED | | | | No. of Test Purchases |
|---|-------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Examined but not Tested | Tested | Deficient | Incorrect in other respects | Examined but not Tested | Tested | Deficient | Incorrect in other respects | |
| Meat, Fish, Poultry and items in Sch. 4, Parts I and II | 6,528 | 2,920 | 74 | 53 | 141 | 81 | 12 | - | - |
| Bread | - | 1,929 | 33 | 9 | - | 906 | 3 | - | - |
| Milk | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Intoxicating Liquor | 2,655 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fresh Fruits and Vegetables | 2,575 | 1,516 | 8 | 127 | 10 | - | - | - | - |
| Other foods | 50,419 | 15,993 | 47 | 381 | - | 3 | - | - | 3 |
| Non-food commodities other than in 5(e) | 44,719 | 10,267 | 4 | 24 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |

7. Number of public weighbridges 2. Number of certificates issued during period to attendants of weighbridges: Nil.

6. PARTICULARS OF PROSECUTION

| No. | Trade | Nature of Offence | Act and Section | Penalty imposed (Inc. costs) | Petty Sessional Division |
|---------------|----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Multiple Grocers | Selling lesser quantity of meat than corresponded to price charged | Weights and Measures Act 1963, Section 51 | £ 27.00 | Nottingham |
| 2 to 19 | Vehicle Owners and Drivers | Using overloaded vehicles (18 cases) | Road Traffic Act 1960 | 114.00 | Nottingham |

